

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of the Claims

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 46-53 are pending. Claims 46-49 are amended. New claims 50-53 are added.

Claims 46-49 are amended for proper antecedent basis.

Claims 47 and 49 are amended to define “nb” as “number.” Support is found, for example, in Table 1 on pages 3-13.

Support for new claims 50-53 is found, for example, in Table 1 on pages 3-13 and in paragraph [0008].

The present amendments are necessary to place the claims in allowable form or to reduce issues for appeal. No new matter is added by the present amendments and the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter them.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 46-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. Applicants do not agree with the Examiner. However, in the interest of furthering prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 46-49 to set forth “wherein said inhibitor” in accordance with the suggestion of the Examiner.

With respect to reference of structures of the compounds of Table 1, applicants have spelled out “number” in each instance in the claim.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 46 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by JP07304755 (“Ichihara”). Applicants maintain, however, that Ichihara does not teach or suggest methods of reducing blood pressure or hypertension by administering a compound that **functions as an inhibitor of a soluble epoxide hydrolase**. This position is supported by the previously submitted Rule 132 Declaration of inventor Dr. Bruce Hammock. However, in the interest of furthering prosecution, Applicants have added new claims 50-53 to

set forth administering compounds that inhibit soluble epoxide hydrolase ("sEH") enzymatic activity with an IC_{50} of less than 500 μM or an IC_{50} of less than 17.8 μM . Ichihara does not disclose or suggest any compound that functions to inhibit sEH at all, much less with an IC_{50} of less than 500 μM or an IC_{50} of less than 17.8 μM . Instead, Ichihara discloses benzodiazepine compounds with a strong renin inhibitory effect. Therefore, Ichihara does not anticipate the present claims, either expressly or inherently. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 46 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,962,455 ("Blum"). Applicants maintain, however, that Blum does not teach or suggest methods of reducing blood pressure or hypertension by administering a compound that is an inhibitor of a soluble epoxide hydrolase. This position is supported by the previously submitted Rule 132 Declaration of inventor Dr. Bruce Hammock. Applicant further note that in the compounds of Blum, at least one of the "R" groups, R1 or R3, must be greater than C20. Therefore, the compounds of Blum do not anticipate the soluble epoxide hydrolase inhibitors used in the present methods, wherein both "R" groups are from C1-C20.

However, in the interest of furthering prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 46 and 48 to set forth administering compounds that inhibit soluble epoxide hydrolase ("sEH") enzymatic activity with an IC_{50} of less than 500 μM or an IC_{50} of less than 17.8 μM . Blum does not disclose or suggest any compound wherein R1 and R3 are both C1-C20 and that inhibits functions to inhibit sEH, particularly with an IC_{50} of less than 500 μM or with an IC_{50} of less than 17.8 μM . Instead, Blum discloses benzylamine compounds that bind to neuropeptide Y. Therefore, Blum does not anticipate the present claims, either expressly or inherently. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

Appl. No. 10/694,641
Amdt. dated October 29, 2007
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 1614

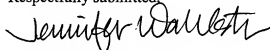
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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